

portion falling within the Municipal limits of Mattancheri, there is not even one inch of metalled road in all these villages (Chellanam, Kumbalanghi, Pallivirutti, and Rameswaram) put together?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

343. Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Is the Government aware that considerable hardship is now being experienced by the poor people of these villages, on account of the lack of good roads, who have most of them to get to Mattancheri and British Cochin to make their living?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes; some difficulty is being experienced, especially during monsoon months.

344. Mr. George Chakyamuri.—If the answer to questions 342 and 343 be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to assign reasons why these villages which constitute the most thickly populated and greatest revenue paying group of villages in the State have not till now received the attention of the Government in the matter of means of communication?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—As the villages of Kumbalanghi and Chellanam are separated and surrounded by backwater, there is no scope for wheeled traffic, and as such metalled roads will not be of much use.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—From the answer given, am I to understand that metalled roads will be opened only in places where there is ample scope for wheeled traffic?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Metalled roads are not very necessary there. Only for wheeled traffic metalled roads are necessary.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—My further question is whether it won't be possible, if there is a road, to have wheeled traffic between Chellanam and Kumbalanghi by means of *chengadams* as they use in Travancore.

President.—The question depends upon distance.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—My point is that, if a road is constructed from the limits of the Pallivirutti road up to the southernmost end of Pallivirutti, there will be only 2 miles of road. And another road may be begun from Kumbalanghi right up to the limits of the Cochin State in Chellanam. Then, as regards the difficulty for wheeled traffic, that can be overcome by means of *Chengadams* as they do in many places in Travancore.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I do not think the condition there would warrant making arrangements for *chengadam* transportation, because there is no likelihood for any wheeled traffic becoming popular there. Further, for merchandise transportation, there are ample facilities for communications by water. Only pedestrians would use these roads. For this purpose metalled roads or *chengadam* services are not absolutely necessary.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—May I know why persons won't go in for wheeled traffic, and whether there is any special aptitude like that for people as to induce them not to go in for wheeled traffic where there is a road? I wish to draw the attention of the Government to one fact that, as far as Chellanam is concerned, there is absolutely no scope for communications by backwater. For Chellanam is surrounded by paddy fields, and there are so many *chiras* to pass. It is absolutely impossible to have any communication with that place either through backwater or by land, unless a road is constructed, connecting it with the Pallivirutti road through the *chiras* and paddy fields.

President.—Could not a resolution be moved on the subject?

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—I want to know the attitude of the Government before I bring in a resolution, i. e., whether they have any objections in the matter.

President.—Here you want information.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—From the answer given, I can understand the attitude of the Government.

President.—You have got certain things to be done by the Government; I think it is more appropriate, if you bring in a resolution on the subject.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—I shall be very glad to bring in a resolution. I want to know whether the Government will countenance it by means of these questions. If the Government advises me to bring a resolution, I shall only be too glad.

President.—From his experience he has told you that there is not much scope for wheeled traffic, as pedestrians are not likely to take to wheeled traffic.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—My point is that there is absolutely no justification to say that the people will not take to wheeled traffic, if there is a road. That question can be settled only when there comes a road.

President.—That is your point. The Chief Engineer's point differs from yours. What are we to do when there is such difference of opinion?

Mr. George Chakyamuri.— I am asking the P. W. D. Member whether he has got any reason to say that the people in that locality won't have wheeled traffic when there is a road, whether his statement is based upon any reason or fact.

President.—I don't think he will give a statement without reasons. He will have his own reasons.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—I am asking the member for those reasons so that I may be enlightened on the subject.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Generally, we don't have metalled roads in places riddled with canals and liable to inundations. I don't think cart traffic would become popular there.

President.—So far as Cranganur is concerned, Mr. Padmanabha Menon will tell us what benefit we can expect from such roads.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Not the least benefit, Sir.

Mr. George Chakyamuri. It is absolutely impossible for the pedestrians to go from Pallivirutti, as the condition of the road is such. He must have known about the condition of the road near the temple, which is almost like a desert. It is impossible to walk through the place in mid-noon—the place extending from Pallivirutti temple to the south. So unless there is some improvement, it would be impossible for the pedestrians to walk along that road.

President.—I was there some days back, and I found it difficult to walk from that place to the Ezhuva School. Mr. Matthai was with me, and we had to walk in the hot sun. The Mattancheri Municipality had an idea of extending its limits further south so as to take in all those places within the Municipal limits. That is likely to improve matters.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—The idea had been in the air for a long time, but it has not materialised.

President.—Things are taking such a long time to mature. We want to execute them at once, but we are not able to accomplish them so soon.

345. Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Will the Government be pleased to further state whether it will consider the feasibility of taking immediate action in the matter of opening